

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. - 1 Peter 2:2

THE SINCERE MILK OF GOD'S WORD

The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword... - Hebrews 4:12

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“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

The hymn *Tell Me the Story of Jesus* expresses some things about the One who is at the center of the Bible's message...Jesus Christ. As the song says, the true story of Jesus is “most precious,” and the “sweetest that ever was heard.” Consider some key points the Bible teaches about Jesus.

The story of Jesus begins in the Old Testament. After His resurrection, Christ told His disciples, “*This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled*” (**Luke 24:44**). Jesus may have been referring to the entire Old Testament by saying, “*the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms.*” Even if He was just referencing the books we refer to with these terms, this is a considerable portion of the Old Testament. The Old Testament points toward Christ.

The prophecies looking toward Christ begin in **Genesis**. After Satan tempted Adam and Eve and the two sinned, God told Satan, “*I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: He shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel*” (**Gen. 3:15**). This verse looked to the time that God the Son would enter the world as the “seed” who would ultimately defeat Satan.

In **Genesis 22**, we learn that this “seed” would be a descendant of Abraham, and the One through whom all nations of the earth would be blessed (**verse 18**).

A key prophecy about the manner in which this seed would come into the world is given in **Isaiah 7:14**: *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive,*

and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

This looks toward what is revealed about Jesus at the beginning of the New Testament... His birth. Jesus was not conceived by natural means. He was born to a human mother (who has never been deity and should not be exalted as such), but Mary was a virgin at the time she had Jesus. The Holy Spirit miraculously caused Jesus to be conceived. Notice **Matthew 1:18**: *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.*

The manner in which Christ entered the world illustrates Jesus' role as both Son of God and “Son of Man.”

God the Son has existed from eternity as deity, and He did not give up His deity when He came to earth. Yet, when He came to earth, He took on human form, “*being made in the likeness of men*” (**Phil. 2:7**).

John 1:1-3 says “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him; and without Him was not anything made that hath been made.*” **Verse 14** goes on to say, “*the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.*”

Jesus walked this earth as God in the flesh. He walked this earth as deity, yet also human. The fact that Christ is deity is significant. So too is the fact that He became fully man when He came to earth. Notice **Hebrews 4:15**: *For we have not a High Priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but One that*

hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

This verse is significant for several reasons. Because Jesus was “*tempted like as we are, yet without sin,*” He is the perfect High Priest. He is the Mediator between God and man, being deity Himself yet having become man also (**1 Tim. 2:5**).

Jesus’ perfect resistance to temptations provides us an example to follow. Not only does Jesus *tell* us how to live, He *showed* us how to live (**John 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:21**). Furthermore, the fact that Jesus was tempted like we are but did not sin perfectly qualified Him to be offered as God’s spotless sacrifice for the sins of mankind (cf. **1 Pet. 1:19**).

After speaking of Jesus overcoming temptation, *Tell Me the Story of Jesus* mentions the sorrow He bore and the cross He died on. Even before the events surrounding His death, Jesus did not have what many would consider a pleasant life. He was at times homeless (**Luke 9:58**) and rejected (**John 6:66**).

Especially painful suffering is seen, though, in Jesus’ death and the events leading up to it. Jesus endured excruciating physical and mental anguish. **Matthew 27:26** speaks of His scourging, which was in itself painful. **Verses 27-30** go on to speak of Him being mocked, spit upon, and smitten on the head. **Verse 31** says that He was then led away to be crucified.

Those who delivered Jesus up to die “*found no cause of death in Him, yet asked they of Pilate that He should be slain*” (**Acts 13:28**). Their motive was envy (**Matt. 27:18**). Jesus’ opponents demonstrated despicable hatred.

On God’s part, however, the cross was a perfect example of love (**Rom. 5:8**). Jesus went to the cross willingly (cf. **Matt. 26:53-54**). His love led Him to face what was painful for Him, yet necessary to provide mankind the chance to be saved.

Following Jesus’ death, He was buried, and

his tomb was closely guarded (**Matt. 27:62-66**). While the extra security prevented any possibility of Jesus’ body being stolen by His disciples, it did not stop God from raising His Son from the dead.

As an angel said to Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus, “*Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, even as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay*” (**Matt. 28:5-6**).

Following His resurrection, Christ appeared to His apostles and over five hundred brethren at once (**1 Cor. 15:5-8**). He was on earth for forty days after His resurrection (**Acts 1:3**), before ascending back into heaven (**verse 9**).

Jesus’ resurrection had a significant impact on His apostles (cf. **John 20:28**). Through the written Word, we can have the same faith in Christ that His apostles did (**John 20:29-31**). We can believe Jesus died on the cross, which gives us the chance to be forgiven of sin and reconciled to God (**Rom. 5:9-10**). Through God’s Word, we can believe that Christ was raised, which gives the righteous hope of being raised to spend eternity in heaven with Him (**1 Thes. 4:14**).

Furthermore, through the written Word, we can understand what Christ requires of us in order to *have* eternal life in His name. If we fail to obey Christ’s teachings, we will reject the blessings made possible through His life, death, and resurrection. As **Hebrews 5:9** says of Jesus, “*Having been made perfect, He became to all of those who obey Him the author of eternal salvation.*” Obedience is linked to salvation in Christ.

May we take these and other biblical truths about Christ to heart. May we appreciate who He is and what He has done. May we submit to Jesus’ teachings in order to receive the salvation He has made possible.

- Michael Hickox